

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION

SHAWN MACKEY

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

NO. 3:23-CV-233-DPJ-ASH

JOHN PIGOTT, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS

DEPOSITION OF DOLLY MARASCALCO

APPEARANCES NOTED HEREIN

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2024

PLACE: MISSISSIPPI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
550 HIGH STREET, SUITE 1100
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
TIME: 9:30 a.m.

REPORTED BY: AMANDA MAGEE WOOTTON, CSR, RPR
CSR #1238

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1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q And that was after he had been named
3 executive director?

4 A I think it was probably before.

5 Q He was named executive director in -- was it
6 January 2023, ma'am?

7 A I do not remember the date.

8 Q How was Kell Smith selected as the executive
9 director?

10 A The search committee narrowed it down to
11 three people, and we discussed in our executive board
12 meeting each one of them.

13 Q And what happened?

14 A After we had our discussion, we chose Kell.

15 (Witness confers with counsel.)

16 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, you can explain.

17 A Because he had -- as interim, he had done a
18 great job, and we knew that he was well liked at the
19 Capitol. He spent a lot of time over there on our
20 bills and --

21 MS. ROSS: (Continuing.)

22 Q Any other reason Kell was chosen?

23 A Again, the year or year and a half that he
24 was interim, and he did a great job. His reports were
25 spot on. He had great rapport with some of the

1 senators and legislators over there to talk about
2 bills that we needed to be passed.

3 Q Why was Mackey not selected?

4 A I can't answer that. I can't read minds.

5 Q You can't read what?

6 A Minds.

7 Q Well, you said you had a conversation,
8 ma'am.

9 A Me --

10 Q Look, I'm not asking you to read a mind.
11 But you said you had a conversation.

12 Why was Mackey not selected?

13 A You are talking about why the board --

14 Q When y'all were in the meeting, did y'all
15 discuss anyone besides Kell?

16 A We discussed all three.

17 Q Okay. And my question then is why was
18 Mackey not selected.

19 A We just felt that Kell was better qualified.

20 Q And tell me what you mean by better
21 qualified.

22 A Again, while he was interim, he did a very
23 good job. His reports were great. He went up and
24 over and beyond what we asked him to do. And all of
25 the reports were always good for the community